



**Hon John Mickel MP**  
Member for Logan



**Queensland  
Government**

Our ref: MC38545

**Minister for Transport, Trade,  
Employment and Industrial Relations**

- 8 OCT 2008

Mr Neil Laurie  
The Clerk of the Parliament  
Parliament House  
Corner of Alice and George Street  
Brisbane Qld 4000



Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to petitions 1098-08 and 1085-08 lodged with the Legislative Assembly by Mr Mark McArdle MP, Member for Caloundra on 27 August 2008 regarding the Cairns Yacht Club building.

Discussions to relocate the Cairns Yacht Club building first began in the 1990s and when the lease expired in 1997. Cairns Ports Limited (previously the Cairns Port Authority) has continued to allow the club to remain on its present site and has foregone rent revenue in excess of \$1 million over the past ten years.

The Cityport Masterplan was finalised in 2001 and approved by the Whole-of-Government and endorsed by the then Cairns City Council. In May 2004 the Cairns Yacht Club and Cairns Ports Limited entered into a binding Memorandum of Understanding for Cairns Ports Limited to assist the Cairns Yacht Club to relocate to new waterfront premises in the redeveloped marina. Shareholding Ministers approved an \$8.5 million funding package to relocate the club to the new marina complex. The Cairns Yacht Club relocated to the new facilities by the end of September 2008.

In November 2007 the Cairns Yacht Club called for tenders to remove or demolish the building. Only one tender was received which was to demolish the building. In June 2008 Cairns Ports Limited formally served notice on the Cairns Yacht Club to give vacant possession of the site.

While the State Government acknowledges that the Cairns Yacht Club building has provided a focus for many long time Cairns residents, heritage listing of the clubhouse has not been approved. In 2003 the Queensland Heritage Council provisionally listed the property and appointed an independent assessor for advice. In December 2003 the Queensland Heritage Council withdrew the provisional listing, determining that a permanent listing should not proceed on the basis that the building is not of cultural heritage significance and that it did not satisfy the criteria for permanent listing on the register.

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Attempts were also made to have the building placed on the Australian Heritage Council for assessment for listing on to the Register of the National Estate; however the Australian Heritage Council determined that the building was not eligible for heritage listing.

Although the Cairns Yacht Club can trace its origins to the early 1900s, following a cyclone the building was rebuilt in 1929 and many of the features of the building were altered or added during the 1950s, 1960s and 1970s. Cairns Ports Limited will retain some relics of the Cairns Yacht Club building's interior for reuse within the port's heritage precinct that includes the old cargo sheds, White's shed and the old tower clock.

In order to save the building, the government offered up to \$150 000 to any community group or organisation to acquire the old building and relocate it away from Cityport. James Cook University was selected and agreement has been reached for the university to remove the building to its Smithfield campus in Cairns. Target relocation for the building is expected to occur between 17 October 2008 and 17 November 2008 subject to regional council planning approval. The building will be set in an amphitheatre setting as part of a \$3.5 million project to enhance student/staff amenities and for use by local community groups. It was important that the building find a new owner who could fund its resiting and carry out some reconstruction work

The Queensland Government has ensured that the old Cairns Yacht Club building will continue to be available for community use in the future. With the full and active co-operation of Cairns Ports Limited, the State Government's contribution of \$150 000 to relocate the building to a new site within the James Cook University has provided that this building will be available for community use as well as meeting the future needs of the continued foreshore development works on the Cairns waterfront.

Yours sincerely



**JOHN MICKEL MP**  
**Minister for Transport, Trade,**  
**Employment and industrial Relations**